Guide 109

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NEW HOUSING

Site practice for tradesmen

Pitched roofs:
Insulating a conventional pitched roof

Insulating a pitched roof between the ceiling joists is a straightforward operation.

Lay insulation between joists in widths sized to fit tightly between the joists. Ventilation of the roof space is essential to avoid condensation occurring. Condensation will cause timbers to rot, and steel fixings to corrode.

To avoid insulation being pushed into the eaves and blocking the air path, install a short strip of insulation over the wall plate early in the construction. In addition, install a proprietary eaves ventilator to maintain a clear ventilation path. To avoid the formation of cold spots at the ceiling edge, ensure insulation to main roof area butts up to eaves insulation.

Do not continue insulation under cold water storage tanks as this can lead to freezing pipes and tanks. Insulate around the cold water storage tank, and all water pipes in the roof.

To help ensure a successful installation, follow the points on the back of this leaflet.

REMEMBER
Insulation should be laid between joists in correctly sized widths to fit tightly between joists

"Insulation should be laid between joists in correctly sized widths to fit tightly between joists"

Energy Efficiency Office
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

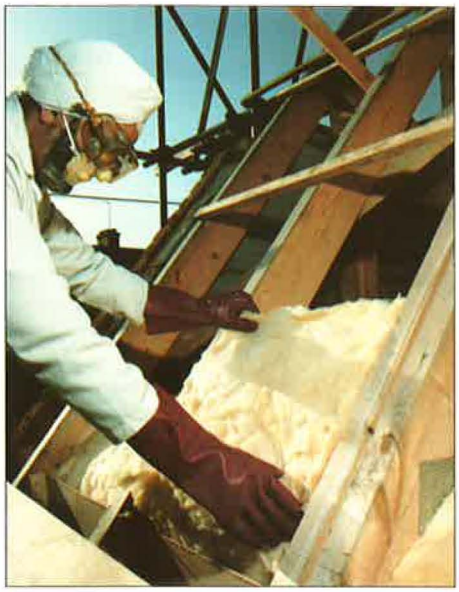
ROOFS: INSULATING A CONVENTIONAL PITCHED ROOF

BEST PRACTICE ON SITE

POINTS TO FOLLOW

- Insulation should be laid between joists in correctly sized widths to fit tightly between the joists
- Do not compress insulation below access decking. Fix additional battens to top of joists to accommodate full thickness of insulation
- Do not continue insulation under cold water storage tanks

Install insulation over wall plate early in construction, to avoid having to push insulation into the eaves later



Install a board to retain insulation in place at the eaves

Ensure insulation covers the whole roof area (except beneath CWS tank) including gaps adjacent to the gable wall

Install a proprietary eaves ventilator to maintain a clear ventilation path

Acknowledgements
The cooperation of the following organisations in the preparation of this Guide is gratefully acknowledged.
Building Employers Confederation, Energy Group North West (CIBSE, CIOB, RIBA, RICS), National House-Building Council, Chartered Institute of Building, DOE, BRE, Construction Industry Training Board, NBA Tectonics, Wimpey Environmental.

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